

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01118 201506Z

53-L  
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 PRS-01 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 OES-03 /052 W  
----- 113282

R 201337Z FEB 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5652

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 1118

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: USISJC, EGEN, IS, US  
SUBJECT: US-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE-- DESALTING PROJECT

REF: STATE 29572, TEL AVIV 0657, TEL AVIV 4691 TEL AVIV 4081 (74)

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER SHER'S STATEMENT (STATE 29572) THAT ISRAELI DESALTING TECHNOLOGY IN PILOT PROJECT HAS "CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY AND THAT NEW APPROACH MAY BE NECESSARY". ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND WATEREXPERTS ARE ALSO PUZZLED. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, AGMON, DG, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SAID THAT ONLY ACTION REQUIRED WAS USG DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD. GABRIEL STEIN, CHAIRMAN OF ISRAELI DESALINATION ENGINEERS (WHICH DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY IN QUESTION) TOLD US THAT PERFORMANCE AT NEW ONE MGD PLANT AT EILAT WAS "EMINENTLY SATISFACTORY AND HAD EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS". STEIN NOTED THAT WHILE SOME MINOR PROBLEMS HAD DEVELOPED THESE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH AND NO MAJOR MODIFICATIONS WERE PLANNED FOR THE PROPOSED ELEVEN MGD PLANT AT ASHDOD. HE SAID THAT WHILE US PARTICIPATION IN NEXT PHASE WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE, IF WE DECIDED AGAINST IT HE BELIEVED GOI WOULD PRESS FORWARD UNILATERALLY WITH DESALINATION PROGRAM.

2. COMMENT: DEPT IS REMINDED THAT AS RECENT AS LAST AUGUST, TEAM OF USG EXPERTS PERFORMED ON-SITE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THIS LONG-DELAYED PROJECT. TEAM CONCLUDED THAT JOINT PROGRAM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS PROPOSED. GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT, PERSONAL INTEREST OF PRIMIN

RABIN (SEE TEL AVIV 4081) AND FACT THAT LAST  
FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS COMPLETED ONLY FEW MONTHS AGO, WE  
SINCERELY HOPE THAT USG WILL NOT NOW REQUIRE ADDITIONAL  
TECHNICAL APPRAISALS. WE BELIEVE THAT A  
PROJECT AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED WITH GOI WHICH WILL  
FULLY PROTECT US INTERESTS. RE DATE FOR COMMITTEE  
MEETING, IT IS CLEAR FROM INFORMAL EXCHANGES HERE  
THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING ON MARCH 19-20 IN  
WASHINGTON.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, DESALINATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TELAV01118  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D750061-0129  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**TAGS:** EGEN, IS, US, USIRJC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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